

REMARKS

Claims 16-32 remain pending in this application.

Rejection of Claims 16 and 20-32 under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 16 and 20-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collings (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,402) in view of Hancock et al.

The present claimed invention introduces a system for controlling television images. The system includes at least one viewer profile establishing a set of limits for blocking selected images from viewing or recording. The member(s) of the set are selected from a group containing program ratings, spending, channel, total view time, time of day and image content ratings. The system also includes at least one override list including at least one override instruction applicable to at least one member of the set. The member(s) of the set is/are modified while the override instruction is active. The system contains at least one previously used override list. The list includes at least one previously used override instruction that is able to be recalled for use in setting a new override instruction. A memory is included for storing the at least one previously used override list. Independent claims 16, 25, 27, 30 and 31 include similar limitations to those discussed above.

“The present invention, which is an improvement to the Override Invention, provides for efficient recall and reinstitution of overrides” in a limit system (page 6, lines 28-29). The system is able to recall and reinstitute overrides because “the completed overrides are stored in system memory” (page 3, lines 15-16).

Collings describes a system in which a method and apparatus block the reception of television programming which meets specified criteria. The methods of the invention are extremely flexible and allow several different rating systems to be used simultaneously. The system includes a menu which “allows the features of apparatus 20 to be individually enabled or disabled. Each of the features listed beside options 1[] to

[6] of menu 90 can be set to ON, SLEEP (for a specified time period) or OFF...If SLEEP is selected the feature will be disabled for a period of time designated by the "Sleep Time" (Column 17, lines 9-18).

The Examiner agrees that Collings does not clearly show "at least one previously used override list including at least one previously used override instruction wherein said previously used override instruction is able to be recalled for use in setting a new override instruction; and a memory for storing said at least one previously used override list". Collings only discloses turning a menu option ON, OFF or to SLEEP thereby enabling or disabling a blocking feature. Collings neither discloses nor suggests setting of a new override using a previously used override from a list stored in a memory as in the present claimed invention. The present claimed invention is not concerned with enabling and disabling the blocking features. The present invention is concerned with facilitating the setting of new overrides by using the limits set in previously used override instructions. Such is neither disclosed nor suggested by Collings. Additionally, the Examiner agrees on page 2 of the Office Action that Collings neither discloses nor suggests storing of previously used override instructions in memory. The claims have been amended to clarify this feature and thereby distinguish the present claimed invention from the cited references.

Hancock et al. describe a system for restricting access to television programs. This system allows for blocking of programs based on overall program ratings and/or specific program content. The system provides a two dimensional matrix highlighting individual tiles or groups of tiles based upon cursor movement commands received from a user. The Office Action cites the brief description of Figure 2 along with various figures in asserting that Hancock et al. teaches that an "override list...can be modified or changes, and the override list can be recalled or retrieved or further modification if needed." Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. Hancock et al. provides a system for blocking television programs and allowing for parental control of a television receiver. Throughout Hancock et al. are described different parameters which may be used to block objected to television

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programs or set up viewer profiles for parental control of television viewing. Such parameters include using a grid guide to identify particular programs to block, ratings or content code blocking, time blocking, channel blocking, "time allowance" blocking, cost allowance blocking, etc. Hancock et al. provide for amendment of the viewer profiles and blocking of programs. However, Hancock et al. are not concerned with overriding preset blocking criteria or viewer profiles as in the present claimed invention. Although Hancock et al. describes the ability of the system to allow "the Master/Administrator to temporarily override blocking instruction to allow unblocked viewing and then re-establish blocking instructions", Hancock et al. neither disclose nor suggest "at least one previously used override list including at least one previously used override instruction wherein said previously used override instruction is able to be recalled for use in setting a new override instruction" as in the present claimed invention. It thus also follows that Hancock et al. also neither disclose nor suggest "a memory for storing said at least one previously used override list" as in the present claimed invention.

Thus, the combined system of Collings with Hancock et al. as well as the individual systems would not produce a system including "at least one previously used override list including at least one previously used override instruction wherein said previously used override instruction is able to be recalled for use in setting a new override instruction; and a memory for storing said at least one previously used override list" as in the present claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Collings or Hancock et al. when taken alone or in combination showing the above discussed features. It is thus further respectfully submitted that independent claims 16, 25, 27, 30 and 31 are not obvious in view of Collings when taken alone or in combination with Hancock et al. As claims 20-24 are dependant on independent claim 16, claims 28 and 29 are dependant on independent claim 27 and claim 32 is dependant on independent claim 31, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 16, 25, 27, 30 and 31. It is

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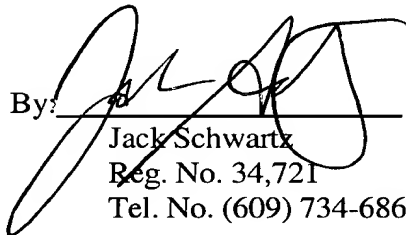
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thus, further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

The applicant respectfully submits, in view of the above arguments, that all arguments made by the Examiner have been addressed and this rejection should be withdrawn. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention is patentable.

No fee is believed due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
David Johnston Lynch

By: 
Jack Schwartz
Reg. No. 34,721
Tel. No. (609) 734-6866

Thomson Licensing Inc.
Patent Operations
PO Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312
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Karen Seelouch